

- Are you an amateur astronomer?
 - Do you LOVE astronomy?
- Do you like to share what you know about astronomy?

If you answered YES to these questions, you may be interested in volunteering as a Project ASTRO NOVA astronomer! Each school year, Project ASTRO NOVA pairs second to ninth grade teachers with volunteer astronomers. Astronomers commit to making at least four visits to the same one or two classrooms. One class visit is only 60-90 minutes. During these visits astronomers answer students' questions and lead or assist the teacher with astronomy activities. Examples of activities include: Making a Telescope, Stargazing, Exploring the Constellations, the Reason for Seasons, Modeling the Phases of the Moon, Making a Scale Model of our Solar System, Observing the Moons of Jupiter, Making a Comet, Life Cycles of Stars and the Origin of the Universe.



The teacher-astronomer partnerships are established at a two-day workshop. During the workshop, partners develop a strategy for working together, in and out of the classroom, and start planning their astronomy lessons and the first astronomer's visit. Our next training workshop will be on *February 6-7, 2009 (Friday and Saturday)* at Raritan Valley Community College.

Astronomers who are interested in participating should fill out an Astronomer Volunteer Form. On this form, astronomers will be asked for areas of astronomy that are of special interest to them and which grades/ages they prefer to work with. Based on the answers, astronomers will be matched with compatible teachers or youth leaders near their home or work. Each partnership will receive a wide variety of materials and resources for use in their visits, including: The Astronomical Society of the Pacific's "*The Universe at Your Fingertips*" activity and resource notebook, articles about recent astronomical developments, resource lists, access to audio-visual materials, tips on working with schools/groups and students, tips on addressing and working with preconceptions and learning styles, and more.



Astronomer Volunteer forms and more information can also be obtained from our website at <http://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium/astronova.html> or from Project ASTRO NOVA, Raritan Valley Community College, P.O. Box 3300, Somerville, NJ 08876, (908) 526-1200 x8942 , fax (908) 526-7938, or email tmood@raritanval.edu.

The deadline for submission of Astronomer Volunteer Forms is Nov. 21st, 2008.